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Edith Vanderbilt

Edith Stuyvesant Vanderbilt, born Edith Stuyvesant Dresser on January 17, 1873, in Newport, Rhode Island, was a prominent American philanthropist and socialite. Here are some key aspects of her personal and professional lives:

Personal Life

1. ****Early Life****: Edith was born into a well-connected family. She was a descendant of Peter Stuyvesant, the last Dutch governor of New York, and the great-niece of Hamilton Fish, a U.S.

Secretary of State. Orphaned at the age of 10, she was raised by her maternal grandmother.

2. **Marriage to George Vanderbilt**: On June 1, 1898, Edith married George Washington Vanderbilt II, the owner of the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. They had one daughter, Cornelia Stuyvesant Vanderbilt, born in 1900.

3. **Second Marriage**: After George Vanderbilt's death in 1914, Edith married Peter Goelet Gerry, a U.S. Senator from Rhode Island, in 1925.

4. **Later Years**: Edith continued to be active in philanthropy and community service until her death on December 21, 1958, in Providence, Rhode Island.

Professional Life

1. **Philanthropy**: Edith was deeply involved in philanthropic activities. She sponsored literacy and educational programs, promoted crafts for women, and took care of the families working on the Biltmore Estate.
2. **Community Service**: After her husband's death, Edith became the first woman president of the State Agricultural Society. She helped build a new hospital and sold 87,000 acres of land to create the Pisgah National Forest in honor of her late husband.
3. **Biltmore Estate**: Edith played a significant role in managing the Biltmore Estate, overseeing its operations and ensuring the well-being of its

employees. She founded schools to provide training and literacy skills to the estate's workers.

Edith Vanderbilt's life was marked by her dedication to philanthropy, community service, and her role as a prominent figure in American society.